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Time to Join Up

Editor, Tribune: For more than two decades the Honorable Reed Smoot carried both the mantle of apostle and politician without doing disservice to either. He accomplished this by recognizing that to step into the political arena one must be ready to receive as well as give, without withdrawing behind the protective cover, "spokesman of God."

For nigh onto ten years Ezra Taft Benson has become more and more the spokesman for the conservative cause in both his defense of the John Birch Society and the many causes they hold dear. I, like E. Jane Showery (Tribune, Feb. 17) applaud Mr. Benson's forthright stand; however, I would like to make one suggestion.

I feel it is time for Mr. Benson to officially join those organizations for which he has become ex-officio spokesman, and meet his opponents in the open-market place of political thought. Then we who believe there is value in such programs as the United Nations, graduated federal income tax, aid to education, CIA, National Security Council, Dwight David Eisenhower, etc., can say so without fear of becoming apostates in the eyes of our fellow churchmen.

I'm sure Mr. Benson does not mean to imply that his political philosophy is the word of God, but I, for one, am becoming a little nauseated at the church workers who are twisting his ideas into this type of meaning.

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